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RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE
GROUP 2834
PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Docket No: Q64322

Shiro IWATANI, et al.

Appln. No.: 09/831,040

Group Art Unit: 2834

Confirmation No.: 8209

Examiner: Pedro J. Cuevas

Filed: May 04, 2001

For: CONTROLLER FOR A.C. GENERATOR FOR VEHICLE

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ATTN: BOX AF
Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated November 25, 2002, please consider the remarks as submitted herewith.

Claims 1-4 are all the claims pending in the application.

Claims 1-4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over previously-cited DeBiasi et al. (US 5,481,176) in view of newly-cited Morris (US 5,859,581).

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection as set forth below.

Independent claim 1 of the present invention requires a field current detecting resistor that is a thick film printed resistor. The Examiner admits that DeBiasi et al. do not disclose this feature of the claim, but asserts that Morris makes up for this deficiency of DeBiasi et al. Applicants disagree.

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Morris relates to a thick film resistor assembly for a fan controller. The Examiner asserts that Morris teaches “the construction of a thick film resistor assembly and insulating board for fan controller for the purpose of providing an improved resistor assembly incorporating an anodizable metal substrate having an anodized insulating coating and one or more thick film printed resistors screen printed directly on the insulating coating.” However, Morris does not teach or suggest a field current detecting resistor that is a thick film printed resistor. Instead, Morris teaches a thick film resistor assembly for a fan controller. Morris does not explicitly disclose a field current detecting resistor of any kind, and Morris’s general teachings of thick film resistors do not teach or suggest the specific claim limitation of claim 1 of a field current detecting resistor that is a thick film printed resistor. Thus, the combination of DeBiasi et al. and Morris does not teach or suggest all of the limitations of claim 1.

Therefore, claim 1 is allowable over the prior art.

Also, claims 2-4 are allowable over the prior art, at least because of their dependence from claim 1.

With further regard to claim 4, Applicants submit that the applied references do not teach or suggest the integrated circuit failure alarm means for detecting a failure of the A.C. generator to give an alarm. Although DeBiasi et al. disclose a charging system warning lamp 25, the warning lamp 25 is illuminated when the engine controller 18 learns from the voltage regulator 16 via load indicator circuit 28 that a fault has occurred in the charging system. In other words, the warning lamp 25 simply indicates a fault in the charging system, but the failure alarm means of claim 4 is for detecting a failure of the A.C. generator to give an alarm.

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Furthermore, the warning lamp 25 of the reference is not taught or suggested as being an integrated circuit, as required by claim 4. Thus, the warning lamp 25 of DeBiasi et al. does not correspond to the failure alarm means of claim 4, and claim 4 is allowable over the applied references for this additional reason.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

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Respectfully submitted,



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Date: March 25, 2003